

7 a step for transmitting to the client computer information for generating a test
8 requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step for
2 verifying at the central computer that the requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible
3 party identified in the billing information for the identified diagnosis.

1 3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, said receiving step comprising a
2 step for receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code, said verifying step comprising
3 a step for searching a code database for correspondence between the diagnosis code and the
4 laboratory test code.

1 4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, said verifying step comprising a
2 step for determining for the identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory test whether a
3 maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

1 5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising a step for
2 transmitting a notification to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not
3 payable by the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising a step for
2 requesting a payment guarantee from the client in response to the notification.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising a step for
2 transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information to the client computer if the
3 requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the
4 identified diagnosis.

1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step for
2 transmitting a request for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required
3 for the requested laboratory test.

1 9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, said receiving step comprising:

2 a step for receiving a patient identification at the central computer from the
3 client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom the test is being
4 ordered;

5 a step for receiving billing information at the central computer from the client
6 computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for payment of the test
7 being ordered for the identified patient; and

8 a step for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer from the client
9 computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

10. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer and a
2 central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a
3 patient comprising:

4 a step for transmitting to the central computer a laboratory test request from
5 the client computer and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the
6 requested laboratory test; and

7 a step for receiving from the central computer information for generating a test
8 requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for
2 receiving a notification from the central computer if the requested laboratory test is not
3 payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information for the identified
4 diagnosis.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step for
2 guaranteeing payment by the client in response to the notification.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step for
2 transmitting additional diagnosis information to the central computer if the requested
3 laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 14. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for
2 transmitting additional information to the central computer if ask-at-order-entry questions are
3 required for the requested laboratory test.

1 15. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising
2 a step for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested laboratory test from
3 a menu of laboratory test codes.

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1 16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising a step for
2 customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes commonly
3 used by the client.

1 17. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising
2 a step for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified diagnosis from a menu of
3 diagnosis codes.

1 18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising a step for
2 customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly used by the
3 client.

1 19. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising:

2 a step for transmitting a patient identification from the central computer to the
3 client computer, thereby providing information about the patient for whom the test is being
4 ordered;

5 a step for transmitting billing information from the central computer to the
6 client computer, thereby providing information about a party responsible for payment of the
7 test being ordered for the identified patient; and

8 a step for transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central computer to the
9 client computer, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

1 20. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer and a

2 central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen
3 for patients comprising:

4 a step for receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

5 a step for receiving at the central computer a request from the client computer
6 for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

7 a step for transmitting to the client computer the laboratory test results.

1 21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, said receiving step comprising a
2 step for receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 22. (Amended) The method of claim 20, said transmitting step comprising
2 a step for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, said
3 receiving step comprising a step for receiving an identification of a patient and a number of
4 reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 23. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer and a
2 central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen
3 for patients comprising:

4 a step for transmitting to the central computer a request from the client
5 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

6 a step for receiving from the central computer the laboratory test results.

1 24. (Amended) The method of claim 23, said transmitting step comprising
2 a step for transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 25. (Amended) The method of claim 23, said receiving step comprising a
2 step for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, said transmitting

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3 step comprising a step for transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports
4 to be received in the cumulative report.

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1 26. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

4 receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through the
5 network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request
6 and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test;
7 and

8 transmitting information through the network from the central computer to the
9 client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label
10 for use with the biological specimen.

1 27. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of
2 analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the requested laboratory
3 test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 28. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part of the at least one
3 query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for correspondence
4 between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 29. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, wherein said analyzing step
2 comprises comparing the identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory test to a maximum
3 value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified
4 diagnosis.

1 30. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to the client
3 computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for
4 the identified diagnosis.

1 31. (Newly Added) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of
2 requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in response to the
3 notification.

1 32. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network from the
3 central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the
4 identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

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1 33. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a request through the network from the central computer to the client computer
3 for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested
4 laboratory test.

1 34. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, said receiving step
2 comprising:

3 receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one
4 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom the
5 test is being ordered;

6 receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one query
7 from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one query
10 from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

1 35. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a
3 patient comprising the steps of:

4 transmitting at least one query through the network from the client computer
5 to the central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,

6 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

7 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
8 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with
9 the biological specimen.

1 36. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a notification through the network from the central computer if the requested
3 laboratory test is not payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information for
4 the identified diagnosis.

1 37. (Newly Added) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of
2 receiving, at the client computer, information including an acknowledgement by the patient
3 that the client is responsible for payment in response to the notification.

1 38. (Newly Added) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting additional diagnosis information from the client computer to the central
3 computer through the network if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified
4 responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 39. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting additional information from the client computer to the central computer through
3 the network if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested laboratory test.

1 40. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested laboratory test from
3 a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 41. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified diagnosis from a menu
3 of diagnosis codes.

1 42. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises:

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3 transmitting a patient identification from the central computer to the client
4 computer through the network, thereby providing information about the patient for whom the
5 test is being ordered;

6 transmitting billing information from the central computer to the client
7 computer through the network, thereby providing information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central computer to the client
10 computer through the network, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 43. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for patients comprising the steps of:

4 receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

5 receiving at the central computer via the network, a request from the client
6 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

7 transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer to the client
8 computer through the network responsive to the received identification.

1 44. (Newly Added) The method of claim 43, wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 45. (Newly Added) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, and said
3 receiving step comprises receiving an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be
4 transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 46. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and

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2 a central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen
3 for patients comprising the steps of:

4 transmitting to the central computer from the client computer through the
5 network, a request for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of
6 patients; and

7 receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the
8 network.

1 47. (Newly Added) The method of claim 46 wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 48. (Newly Added) The method of claim 46 wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient and said
3 transmitting step comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports
4 to be received in the cumulative report.

1 49. (Newly Added) Apparatus for receiving an order of a laboratory test of
2 a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted
7 from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and
8 patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means for transmitting information from the central computer to the client
10 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
11 with the biological specimen.

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1 50. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said receiving
2 means comprises:

3 means for receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at
4 least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for
5 whom the test is being ordered;

6 means for receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least
7 one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible
8 for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 means for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least
10 one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 51. (Newly Added) Apparatus for ordering a laboratory test of a biological
2 specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting at least one query from the client computer to the
7 central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,
8 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means, at the at least one client computer for receiving information from the
10 central computer, the received information including data for generating a test requisition and
11 a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 52. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the
3 requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 53. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means
2 for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes commonly
3 used by the client.

1 54. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified
3 diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 55. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising means
2 for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly used by
3 the client.

1 56. (Newly Added) Apparatus for providing results of a laboratory test of
2 a biological specimen for patients comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving laboratory test results at the central computer;

7 means for receiving a request from the client computer for laboratory test
8 results and an identification of a patient or group of patients at the central computer; and

9 means for transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer to
10 the client computer responsive to the received identification.

1 57. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results
3 for a patient, and said receiving means comprises means for receiving an identification of a
4 patient and a number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 58. (Newly Added) Apparatus for obtaining results of a laboratory test of a

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2 biological specimen for patients comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting a request from the at least one client computer to the
7 central computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of
8 patients; and

9 means for receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer.

1 59. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said receiving
2 means comprises means for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a
3 patient, said means for transmitting comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a
4 number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

1 60. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network including at least
3 one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of receiving an order of a
4 laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the client
6 computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and
7 diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 transmitting information through the network to the at least one client
9 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
10 with the biological specimen.

1 61. (Newly Added) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein
2 the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of
3 analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a

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4 responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 62. (Newly Added) The computer readable medium of claim 61, wherein
2 the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of
3 transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network to the client
4 computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for
5 the identified diagnosis.

1 63. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network including the client
3 computer and a central computer, to perform a method of ordering a laboratory test of a
4 biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting at least one query through the network to the central computer,
6 the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis
7 information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with
10 the biological specimen.

1 64. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a central computer in a computer network including a client
3 computer and the central computer, to perform a method of providing results of a laboratory
4 test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving the laboratory test results;

6 receiving, via the network, a request from the client computer for the
7 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

8 transmitting the laboratory test results to the client computer through the
9 network, responsive to the identification of the patient or group of patients.

1 65. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network including the client
3 computer and a central computer, to perform a method of obtaining results of a laboratory
4 test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting, to the central computer through the network, a request for the
6 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients corresponding to
7 the test results; and

8 receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the
9 network.

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